

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 L-03 NSC-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SS-20 /099 R

DRAFTED BY S/R:ORM:HBSHISHKIN/EA/VN:JDFINNEY:CML

APPROVED BY S/R - LAWIESNER

EA/VN - RHWENZEL (DRAFT)

EA/LC - LMRIVES (DRAFT)

AID - AHWIRTZ (DRAFT)

L/EA - CROH (DRAFT)

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R 23:135Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AORG, (UNHCR), VS, LA, CB

SUBJECT: RELIEF ASSISTANCE INDOCHINA - UNHCR

REF: (A) GENEVA 4126 (B) SAIGON 8856 (C) VIENTIANE 5242

1. DEPUTY UNHCR MACE, UNHCR UN REP DAYAL, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO UNHCR RIZVI MET WITH STATE/AID OFFICIALS JULY 8-9 TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY 12.5 MILLION DOLS. UNHCR PROJECT (OUTLINED REF A) FOR INDOCHINA (4 MILLION DOLS. RVN, 3 MILLION DOLS. LAOS, 3 MILLION DOLS. DRV, 2.5 MILLION DOLS. PRG).

2. DRAWING UPON USEFUL COMMENTS REF B, DEPT OFFICIALS WELCOMED PROSPECT UNHCR'S INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN INDOCHINA, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SEVERAL ASPECTS OF UNHCR  
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PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IMBALANCE IN PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BETWEEN DRV/PRG AND RVN AND UNHCR'S INTENTION TO DEAL WITH PRG OFFICIALS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN THROUGH A THIRD PARTY. WE POINTED OUT THAT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION PROHIBITS OUR CONTRIBUTING FAA FUNDS TO THOSE PORTIONS OF PROGRAM RELATING TO DRV/PRG. WE NOTED FURTHER THAT IMBALANCE IN ALLOCATION OF FUNDS COULD AFFECT OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN REMAINDER OF PROGRAM (FOR NON-COMMUNIST AREAS), AND WE URGED UNHCR CONSIDER APPROPRIATE REVISION.

3. IN REPLY, UNHCR REPS STATED THEY WELCOMED OUR CRITIQUE OF PROGRAM, POINTING OUT THAT THEY HAD SUBMITTED THE PROPOSAL TO US FIRST IN A PRELIMINARY FORM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN OUR VIEWS.

4. UNHCR REPS DESCRIBED DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN PUTTING TOGETHER A PROGRAM TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM PARTIES IN VIET-NAM AND LAOS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS OF RAISING FUNDS AND REQUIREMENT FOR BALANCED PROGRAMS AS OUTLINED BY SECRETARY GENERAL. THEY STATED THAT PRESENT 12.5 MILLION DOL. PROGRAM REPRESENTS SUM OF PROJECTS ACCEPTED BY THE UNHCR, NOTHING MORE. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS WAS MADE FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTS RECEIVED. THEY SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DETERMINE PROPORTIONS OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ADDING THAT ONLY CRITERION USED WAS NEED TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING, NOT NUMBER OF PEOPLE, BUT HOW PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED.

5. UNHCR REPS STATED THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SELECTING QUANG TRI, AS OPPOSED TO OTHER PRG-CONTROLLED AREAS, AS SITE FOR PROPOSED UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF EASE OF ACCESS AND MONITORING. THEY DESCRIBED QUANG TRI AS "VERY DISCOURAGING SCENE" WHICH COULD READILY ABSORB PROPOSED ASSISTANCE. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UNHCR WOULD CONSIDER DISPERSING ITS ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AREAS UNDER PRG CONTROL BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRG. UNHCR REPS SAID FURTHER THAT THEY WOULD SEEK "OPERATIONAL PARTNERS" TO WORK THROUGH IN DEALING WITH PRG OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WOULD SUCCEED, HINTING THAT THEY MAY WELL DECIDE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH PRG AS BEST WAY OF MONITORING THEIR PROGRAM.

6. IN LAOS, UNHCR REPS NOTED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF BOTH SIDES AT TOP LEVELS OF COALITION GOVERNMENT REGARDING NEED FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE, RATHER THAN BI-

LATERAL. UNHCR REPS SAID THEY BELIEVE UNHCR CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE SLOWLY DEVELOPING IN COALITION GOVERNMENT BUT THAT IT MUST ACT FAST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENT FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE. DEPT OFFICIALS AGREED, AND ENCOURAGED UNHCR IN ITS INITIATIVE, EXPRESSING VIEW THAT THROUGH ITS HUMANITARIAN WORK IN LAOS UNHCR COULD BE HELPFUL IN MEETING RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS IN LAOS AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF A NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

7. WITH REFERENCE TO PROBLEM OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, DEPARTMENT STRONGLY URGED UNHCR TO DEVELOP MAJOR PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THESE PEOPLE, NOTING THAT ANNUAL COST OF JUST FEEDING THEM WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 2 MILLION DOLS. UNHCR REPS REPLIED THAT THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF PROBLEM AND ARE FORMULATING PROPOSAL TO DEAL WITH IT. WITH REGARD TO SECOND 100,000 DOLS. PAYMENT FOR KHMER REFUGEES NEAR TAY NINH UNHCR REPS EXPRESSED APOLOGIES FOR DELAY, EXPLAINING THAT IT STEMMED FROM RECENT TRANSFER OF UNHCR PERSONNEL. THEY SAID MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED IN FEW DAYS.

8. UNHCR REPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, NOTING THAT DEPT COMMENTS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING FINAL VERSION OF INDO-CHINA ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO UNHCR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS LATER THIS MONTH. KISSINGER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, CLOTHING, DATA, EXPENDITURES, FARM EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL FACILITIES, POLICIES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE159733  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ORM:HBSHISHKIN/EA/VN:JDFINNEY:CML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D740199-0848  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740787/aaaahdwc.tel  
**Line Count:** 147  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN ORM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) GENEVA 4126 (B) SAIGON 8856 (C), VIENTIANE 5242  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971104  
**Subject:** RELIEF ASSISTANCE INDOCHINA - UNHCR  
**TAGS:** AORG, SREF, CB, LA, VS, AORG, SREF, UNHCR  
**To:** MULTIPLE  
SAIGON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005